

Minutes Parks and Recreation Board January 16, 2008

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on January 16, 2008 7:00 p.m.,
Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

Members Present:

Frank Granillo, Chair
Chuy Carreon
Andrea Esquer
Scott Hamilton
Ed Parker

Members Absent:

Angela Thornton, Vice-Chair (excused)
Buddy Davis (excused)
Ed Roberts

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation
Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Project Coordinator – Parks & Recreation
Linda Cano, Recreation Supervisor – Parks & Recreation
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Goodwin Park

Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Project Coordinator, introduced Ruben Valenzuela, Terrano Design, who presented the final master plan for the Goodwin Park renovation.

1. Ruben was joined by the co-chair of the Goodwin Park Neighborhood Association, Judy Tapscott, and her husband, Ron.
2. The neighborhood approved the final master plan at their October 2007 meeting.

3. The final plan was a consolidation of three (3) previous concepts that had been designed.
4. The slopes of the retention basin will be increased from 12/1 to 6/1 to provide additional useable area at the bottom of the park.
5. The park will include two (2) sand playgrounds, shade structures, gravel path around the perimeter, the addition of two (2) half-court basketball courts as well as nine (9) par course exercise stations.
6. The neighborhood consensus was to leave an open grass area for various types of sports play.
7. The plans also include the addition of a volleyball court.
8. Pole lighting will be used to prevent vandalism and the lights will be directed downward so that no light spills into the neighborhood.
9. The park renovations will make Goodwin Park ADA compliant.
10. The park will include steps and ramps to reach the bottom of the park and a few retention walls.
11. The neighborhood asked for art to be included in the plans and a contemplative garden that will be situated away from the park play area.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- There were some concerns regarding the use of the current basketball courts, and the two new half courts, by those that live outside of the neighborhood.
- There was a request to move the courts to another area.
- It was decided to leave the current courts as they are only 6-7 years old and the cost to build a new court would be an additional \$25,000.
- Goodwin Park is #5 in line for park renovations.
- Judy Tapscott expressed her gratitude for the help that neighborhood has received from Bob Pohlit.
- The construction drawings for the park will occur after July 1, 2008.
- The actual construction would take place in the '09-'10 fiscal year if the funding is available.

Motion: Andrea Esquer made a motion to recommend the approval of the final master plan design for Goodwin Park as presented.

Second: Scott Hamilton.

Decision: Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates on development in the Rio Salado area.

1. A new marketing piece for Tempe Town Lake was provided to the board.
2. This piece is target towards developers and visitors.
3. It includes information on recreation, special events, programmed development and planned development.
4. Hayden Ferry Lakeside will host four (4) Superbowl parties.
5. A total of seven (7) Superbowl parties will be held in Tempe.
6. A large amount of shad have been killed off by Golden Algae growth in the lake.

7. The water has been treated and the algae appears to be subsiding.
8. The City continues to work with various arts organizations to provide cultural opportunities on the west side of the Tempe Center for the Arts.
9. Childsplay has been contacted about constructing their scene shop on this site.
10. The City will provide the land lease or sale for these projects, but the artists will be responsible for the development costs.
11. Staff is also working on an RFP for additional arts-related programs as an extension of the Elements Plan.
12. Plans include the possibility of having “artists in residence” units.
13. A Segway Tour has been proposed for the paths around Town Lake.
14. Segways are an upright mobility devices used for personal transportation.
15. If approved, the tours would include 7 – 12 people and would need to be guided.
16. Various concepts for the south bank linear park from Rural to the east dam were presented to the board.
17. The City will spend \$4.2 million for this project through their capital improvement program.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Segway tours will need to be limited based on special events and other activities around the lake.
- Travis would like to be included on future discussions regarding the possibility of permitting the Segway tours.
- An ordinance change by the Council would be required before a permit or license could be issued for the Segway tours.
- Segway users will receive instruction and training before they are allowed to travel on the Segways.
- There were concerns about the Pier 202 retail activities extending to the linear park and limiting public access.
- The board was also concerned with the developer's proposal to add \$1.5 million of enhancements to the Pier 202 project and the return that they would expect for their investment.
- Enhancements would provide larger trees, grand staircases and shade structures.

Agenda Item 4 – Community Interest Section

Travis Dray introduced the new supervisor for the Community Special Interest Section of the Parks & Recreation Department, Linda Cano.

1. The Community Special Interest Section programs after school clubs, special interest classes, senior and adapted recreation programs.
2. These classes and programs are held in various facilities that are managed by the Community Special Interest staff including, but not limited to, Pyle Adult Center, Cahill Senior Center, Westside Multigenerational Center and the Clark Recreation Center.
3. After school clubs are currently being offered at Broadmor, Fuller and Aguilar elementary schools.
4. This division also offers fitness classes, lifelong learning classes and skills clinics.
5. Special events such as dances, holiday parties and movies are offered for seniors and the adapted rec. populations.

6. Outside funding has assisted with providing some of the senior lunches, the after school clubs and some of the sports for the adapted recreation program.
7. The Cahill Senior Center is located in the Westside Multigenerational Center.
8. Westside is also home to the Boys & Girls Club, the Tempe Community Council, YMCA and the Headstart programs.
9. The staff goals for 2008 include a comprehensive needs assessment for the community, updating or renovating the Pyle Adult Center and looking for alternative funding opportunities.

Agenda Item 4 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Frank Granillo attended the Block Party and said it was amazing how the City, and everyone else involved, puts on such a great event.

Tempe Town Lake will host Superbowl Saturday Night with a free concert from the Counting Crows. The opening act will be Boys Like Girls.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Prepared by: Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant, (480) 350-5240

Reviewed by: Travis Dray, Parks and Recreation Deputy Department Manager, (480) 350-5182